

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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BELGRADE FOR CSCE REVIEW DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CONVICTION OF CZECH DISSIDENTS

1. AT MY SUGGESTION OUR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR MET WITH DEPUTY HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION DIRECTOR PIERRE SANON OCTOBER 19 (DIRECTOR VAN BOVEN ATTENDING UNGA) TO EXPLORE MEANS BY WHICH SHOCK AND INDIGNATION OVER CONVICTION OF FOUR CZECH DISSIDENTS MIGHT BEST BE CONVEYED, AND ANY ROLE U.S. AND THIS MISSION MIGHT USEFULLY PLAY IN SUCH AN EFFORT.

2. SANON, AN UPPER VOLTAN AND FORMER DELEGATE TO U.N., SAID THAT HE FELT SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS AS TO ROLE U.N. MIGHT PLAY IN SUCH MATTERS, AND PARTICULARLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (HRD). HE POINTED OUT THAT HRD WAS SPECIFICALLY ENJOINED FROM SENDING DELEGATE TO CSCE REVIEW MEETINGS, AND THAT, IN FACT, ONLY CHIEF U.N. REP WINSPEARE WAS PERMITTED TO GO TO OPENING SESSION FROM GENEVA. THUS U.N. WAS EMPHASIZING ITS DISTANCE
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FROM CSCE MEETING, AND PARTICULARLY IN SENSITIVE POLITICAL AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ONLY MANNER IN WHICH SANON COULD CONCEIVE THE U.N. PLAYING A HELPFUL ROLE IN CZECH AFFAIR WOULD BE, IF THERE WERE AGREEMENT AMONG ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENTS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT BE APPROACHED TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO INTERVENE WITH THE CZECH GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CONVICTED

DISSIDENTS.

3. TURNING TO POSSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS OR PRESS RELEASES BY U.S. ON THIS SUBJECT, SANON FELT THAT THESE WOULD BE GENERALLY FUTILE SINCE, ON THE ONE HAND, WE WOULD BE TALKING TO THE CONVERTED IN THE CASE OF FRIENDLY NATIONS, AND OUR PRONOUNCEMENTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND LABELED "POLITICALLY BASED" BY COMMUNIST AND OTHER NON-FRIENDLY STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS ON OUR PART WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE CONVINCING TO THIRD WORLD MEMBERS, WHO REQUIRE CONSIDERABLY MORE WOOING THAN WE HAVE DEVOTED TO THEM IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO SANON. HE THEREUPON LAUNCHED INTO ONE OF HIS FAVORITE THEMES, NAMELY THE NEED FOR THE WEST, AND PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, TO COMMUNICATE WITH THIRD WORLD MEMBERS MORE CONSTANTLY, TO IMPART TO THEM OUR THINKING ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A RATIONAL BASIS FOR ELECTING TO SIDE WITH US, RATHER THAN BLINDLY ADHERING TO GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER BLOCS. IN THIS INSTANCE, SANON FELT THAT BEST TACTIC WOULD BE FOR US TO COMMUNICATE OUR REAL CONCERN OVER CZECH ISSUE TO THIRD WORLD MEMBERS THROUGH ALL CONTACTS AT OUR DISPOSAL. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE DIRECTED MISSION STAFF TO USE EVERY AVAILABLE SOCIAL AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY DEPTH AND SINCERITY OF OUR CONCERN OVER GROSS VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVED IN CZECH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFAIR TO THIRD WORLD MEMBERS IN GENEVA.

4. INsofar AS SANON'S FIRST SUGGESTION IS CONCERNED, IT OCCURS TO US THAT THIS SITUATION POINTS UP DESIRABILITY, OR EVEN NEED, FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WHO WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO EMPLOY HIS GOOD OFFICES TO INTERCEDE WITH GOVERNMENTS WHENEVER SUCH VIOLATIONS WOULD INDICATE. AT PRESENT, AS SANON POINTED OUT, ONLY RECOURSE IS AT HIGHEST U.N. LEVEL THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THIS POINT MIGHT BE BORNE IN MIND BY USDEL AS THE PROPOSAL FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ARISES AT UNGA. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA09230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D770393-0756
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